

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

Drawing corrections

Fig. 3 has been amended by adding the legend "DATA OUT" associated with element 132 as requested by the Examiner. In Fig. 11, --side A has been changed to side B—as requested by the Examiner.

Informalities in the claims

Claims have been deleted or amended to overcome objections raised in the Office Action.

Prior art rejections

The present invention pertains to a novel method and apparatus for reading DVD discs. In one aspect of the invention, defined in claim 1 and 37, a controller is provided that analyzes the analog characteristics of the data signal (see e.g. Fig. 5) to determine the proper direction of rotation of the disc. The prior art references, such as Ishibashi, discuss the sequence of different ways but not the waveshape of the data signal itself. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that claims directed to this aspect of the invention are patentable.

Another aspect of the invention described in claim 7 is that a player is presented that has a manual switch and a controller that detects whether a disc inserted into the player is oriented properly. If the disc is not oriented

properly, a message is shown to the user. The user then activates a switch or other command means to cause the player to reverse direction. The cited references, including Ishibashi and Gotoh include a controller that reverses a motor either automatically, or in response to a switch, but there is no disclosure of all the steps or features discussed.

Another feature of the invention covered in claims 19 and 20 is a DVD player with a reversible motor and a controller. The controller receives a disc and tries to read data from the disc. If no data is detected, it assumes that the disc has been inserted upside down and reverses the direction of the motor. As discussed above, the references cited by the examiner look for a particular pattern of signals. There is no suggestion in any of the references that the direction of rotation of a motor is to be reversed IF NO SIGNAL IS DETECTED.

Another feature of the invention described in claims 16, 27, 37 and 38 is a DVD player that can receive either a special DVD with reverse spirals on opposite sides or a double sided standard DVD and start playing it. In other words, a player is disclosed that receives a disc, determines how data is stored on its sides and then starts playing data from one side, then the other, reversing the direction of rotation of the disc as necessary. The references discussed by the Examiner disclose either standard players that can play only one side of the disc, and therefore a user must physically take a disc and turn it over, or a specialized disc and a player that recognizes whether the disc should be rotated in one direction or another. However, there is no suggestion of receiving any disc and playing it.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in
condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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